

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multimedia user station, an Internet Protocol (IP) network connected to a switched circuit network, said multimedia user station capable of connecting to said IP network and participating in a multimedia conference call conducted over the IP network and the switched circuit network, said multimedia user station comprising:

special purpose software operated to:

transmit the IP address of said multimedia user station in a message over the switched circuit network; and negotiate capabilities with other multimedia user stations on a conference call, said negotiation conducted over the IP network.

2. A multimedia user station according to claim 1, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an in-band acoustic signaling protocol.

3. A multimedia user station according to claim 2, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Frequency Shift Key (FSK).

4. A multimedia user station according to claim 2, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF).

5. A multimedia user station according to claim 1, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an out-of-band signaling protocol.

6. A multimedia user station according to claim 5, wherein said out-of-band acoustic signaling protocol is Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

7. A multimedia user station, an Internet Protocol (IP) network connected to a switched circuit network, said multimedia

user station capable of connecting to said IP network and participating in a multimedia conference call conducted over the IP network and the switched circuit network, said IP network including a multipoint control unit (MCU) to conduct the multimedia conference, said multimedia user station comprising:

special purpose software operated to:

transmit the IP address of said multipoint control unit in a message over the switched circuit network; and

negotiate capabilities with said multipoint control unit, said negotiation conducted over the IP network.

8. A multimedia user station according to claim 7, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an in-band acoustic signaling protocol.

9. A multimedia user station according to claim 8, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Frequency Shift Key (FSK).

10. A multimedia user station according to claim 8, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF).

11. A multimedia user station according to claim 7, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an out-of-band signaling protocol.

12. A multimedia user station according to claim 11, wherein said out-of-band acoustic signaling protocol is Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

13. A method to set up a multimedia conference over an Internet Protocol (IP) network connected to a switched circuit network, two or more multimedia user stations connected to the IP network and zero or more standard telephone instruments connected to the switched circuit network, said two or more multimedia user stations capable of participating in a

multimedia conference call conducted over the IP network and the switched circuit network, said zero or more standard telephone instruments capable of participating in an audio conference call
10 over the switched circuit network, said method comprising:

establishing an audio conference via the switched circuit network between said two or more multimedia user stations and said zero or more standard telephone instruments;

transmitting, by one of said two or more multimedia user
15 stations, the IP address of said one of said two or more multimedia user stations in a message over the switched circuit network; and

negotiating capabilities by said one of said two or more multimedia user stations with the others of said two or more
20 multimedia user stations on the conference call, said negotiations conducted over the IP network;

whereby said two or more multimedia user stations and said zero or more standard telephone instruments may conduct an audio conference via said switched circuit network, and said two or
25 more multimedia user stations may conduct an associated extra-audio conference over said IP network.

14. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 13, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an in-band acoustic signaling protocol.

15. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 14, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Frequency Shift Key (FSK).

16. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 14, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF).

17. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 13, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an out-of-band signaling protocol.

18. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 17, wherein said out-of-band acoustic signaling protocol is Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

19. A method to set up a multimedia conference over an Internet Protocol (IP) network connected to a switched circuit network, two or more multimedia user stations connected to the IP network and zero or more standard telephone instruments
5 connected to the switched circuit network, said two or more multimedia user stations capable of participating in a multimedia conference call conducted over the IP network and the switched circuit network, said zero or more standard telephone instruments capable of participating in an audio conference call
10 over the switched circuit network, the IP network including a multipoint control unit (MCU) to conduct the multimedia conference, said method comprising:

establishing an audio conference via the switched circuit network between said two or more multimedia user stations and
15 said zero or more standard telephone instruments;

transmitting, by one of said two or more multimedia user stations, the IP address of said MCU in a message over the switched circuit network; and

negotiating capabilities with said MCU by said two or more
20 multimedia user stations on the conference call, said negotiations conducted over the IP network;

whereby said two or more multimedia user stations and said zero or more standard telephone instruments may conduct an audio conference via said switched circuit network, and said two or
25 more multimedia user stations may conduct an associated extra-audio conference over said IP network.

20. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 19, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an in-band acoustic signaling protocol.

21. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 20, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Frequency Shift Key (FSK).

22. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 20, wherein said in-band acoustic signaling protocol is Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF).

23. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 19, wherein said IP address message is transmitted in accordance to an out-of-band signaling protocol.

24. A method to set up a multimedia conference according to claim 23, wherein said out-of-band acoustic signaling protocol is Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).